

# Rep. Tom O'Halleran

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## **Annual Report to Constituents**



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# 2019 by the Numbers

**26**

Town Halls  
Held

**460**

Meetings with AZ Orgs,  
Communities, Tribes,  
Local Govs, Businesses,  
and Families

**87,089**

Response Letters  
Sent to Constituents

**156**

Mobile Offices  
Across the District

**50**

Individual Arizona Towns,  
Communities, and Cities  
Visited Multiple Times

**31**

Bills, Resolutions,  
and Amendments  
Sponsored

**264**

Bills and  
Resolutions  
Cosponsored

**82%**

of Bills and Resolutions  
Cosponsored are  
Bipartisan

**33**

Bills Sponsored or  
Cosponsored to Benefit  
Veterans and Service  
Members

**422**

Casework Cases  
Closed

**\$871K**

Dollars Returned to  
First District Residents

**12,546**

Miles  
Covered

# Protecting Health Care for Arizona Seniors, Families, Tribes







### ***O'Halleran Introduces Bipartisan Legislation to Fund Community Health Centers***

Rep. Tom O'Halleran introduced the Community Health Investment, Modernization, and Excellence (CHIME) Act – bipartisan legislation that extends the Community Health Centers Fund (CHCF) for five years and includes modest increases to ensure responsiveness to demands for care and national priority areas. "Arizona community health centers serve hundreds of thousands of patients every year and employ more than 6,000 doctors, nurses, and medical staff. They are critical to the health and wellbeing of our state, especially in rural and underserved areas, and we must ensure they have the funding they need to continue their mission." (O'Halleran, 3/28)

### ***PASSED: O'Halleran-Led Bill to Increase Transparency in Drug Pricing***

The House of Representatives voted unanimously to pass H.R.1781, the Payment Commission Data Act, legislation introduced by Reps. Tom O'Halleran (D-Az.), Earl L. "Buddy" Carter (R-Ga.), Tom Rice (R-Sc.), and Jimmy Panetta (D-Ca.) to increase transparency in the drug pricing system. H.R.1781 gives MedPAC and MACPAC expanded access to drug pricing data so experts may more accurately make recommendations to Congress. (O'Halleran, 10/28)

### ***Bill Seeks to Provide Vision Coverage in Medicare, Lowering Costs for Seniors***

A quartet of House Democrats want to see Medicare Part B coverage expanded to include routine vision benefits. Right now, Medicare only covers surgery and screenings for people who are at a high risk of getting cataracts and glaucoma, but it but does not cover routine eye exams. As a result, only about 57% of Medicare beneficiaries with vision problems said they have received an eye exam during the previous year. Hoping to affordably bring better vision to more seniors, Reps. Elissa Slotkin, D-Mich, Kim Schreier, D-Wash., Tom O'Halleran, D-Ariz., and Suzan DelBene, D-Wash., have introduced H.R. 4665, the Medicare Vision Act. (The Well News, 10/22)





### ***O'Halleran Leads Bipartisan Group to Introduce Legislation to Construct Veteran Nursing Homes on Tribal Lands***

Representative Tom O'Halleran (D-Ariz.) joined Congressmen Tom Cole (R-Okla.) and Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.) to re-introduce the bipartisan Nursing Home Care for Native American Veterans Act, legislation to encourage the construction of veteran nursing care homes on tribal lands by closing a loophole that prevents them from receiving federal construction and operations grant money. (O'Halleran, 9/26)

### ***O'Halleran votes to reduce health-care costs***

U.S. Rep. Tom O'Halleran, D-Ariz., voted to pass the Strengthening Health Care and Lowering Prescription Drug Costs Act, a legislative package that addresses rising prescription drug and health-care costs and protects Arizonans with pre-existing conditions. "Our health-care system is broken, and we need to find real solutions. I am committed to working with my colleagues to address the flaws of this system and ensure Arizonans can receive the quality, affordable care they deserve, regardless of their zip code." (Eastern Arizona Courier, 5/19)

### ***House Passes Lower Drug Costs Now Act, Includes O'Halleran Amendment***

Congressman Tom O'Halleran voted to pass H.R. 3, the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act, legislation to lower the costs of prescription drugs by capping out-of-pocket drug costs, empowering Medicare to negotiate prices directly with drug companies, and making those prices available to Americans with private insurance as well. "I was also pleased that the House of Representatives voted to pass my amendment that would award grants to hospitals in rural and medically underserved areas, so these hospitals are able to establish a Graduate Medical Education Program, or partner with an approved hospital to host residents. This program has proven results in incentivizing doctors to stay and practice in the rural areas that need them most." (O'Halleran, 12/12)

# Ensuring Transparency and Holding Congress Accountable





### ***O'Halleran Introduces Legislation to Hold Government Accountable During Shutdown***

Rep. O'Halleran introduced the Government Shutdown Impact Report of 2019, requiring the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to submit daily reports to Congress on the impact and cost of a government shutdown on the nation's economy. A CBO report requested by O'Halleran following the winter 2019 shutdown estimated that our economy lost over \$11 billion, \$3 billion of which can never be recouped. (O'Halleran, 1/8)

### ***O'Halleran Introduces Five Bills To Clean Up Washington, Hold Lawmakers Accountable***

Congressman Tom O'Halleran (AZ-01) introduced five ethics and transparency bills aimed at cleaning up corruption in Washington and restoring faith in Congress. The legislation cracks down on lawmakers' and bureaucrats' use of private jets and first-class flights, helps end the revolving door from Congress to lucrative lobbying jobs, protects Department of Defense funds from being used for unethical travel, ends special perks for members of Congress, prevents government shutdowns, and protects the independent Office of Congressional ethics from political threats. (O'Halleran, 2/28)

### ***Report: O'Halleran held most town halls among Arizona delegation***

Congress returns next week from a two-week recess, a time when lawmakers can go home and meet with voters – except that many of them don't. A report by the Town Hall Project found that Arizona lawmakers have held just 28 town halls so far this year – and 19 of those were held by Rep. Tom O'Halleran, D-Sedona. (Cronkite News, 10/11)



# Keeping Promises to Veterans, Troops





### ***O'Halleran Cosponsors the Bipartisan Phoenix VA Congressional Oversight Act***

Congressman Tom O'Halleran joined the entire U.S. House delegation from Arizona to cosponsor the Phoenix VA Congressional Oversight Act, which authorizes a pilot program to improve constituent services in Arizona. "The health and wellbeing of returning servicemembers and veterans should be a priority for this Congress, but unfortunately, those receiving care at the Phoenix VA Health Care System do not always get the treatment they deserve." (O'Halleran, 2/21)

### ***Housing Pilot Program Secured for Homeless and At-Risk Pinal County Veterans***

After months of working with veteran service organizations, community health programs, the Pinal County Housing Authority and the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System in Tucson, Congressman Tom O'Halleran (AZ-01) announced that a pilot program to house homeless and at-risk veterans in Pinal County would be launched. (Apache Junction News, 6/26)

### ***Rep. O'Halleran Applauds Inclusion of Veteran Suicide Prevention Language in Appropriations Bill***

This week, the House Appropriations Committee approved the FY 2020 Military, Construction, and Veterans' Affairs Appropriations Bill with language spearheaded by Reps. Tom O'Halleran (AZ-01) and Ruben Gallego (AZ-07). The language ensures that the Department of Veterans' Affairs will improve the effectiveness of its suicide prevention outreach campaign. It also requires the VA to provide Congress with a plan on how it will effectively spend its new suicide prevention funding. (O'Halleran, (5/25)

### ***CG veteran gets thousands in back pay***

A Casa Grande veteran's family has received an early Christmas present. Marcus Christiansen credited U.S. Rep. Tom O'Halleran's office with helping him get thousands of dollars in disability severance back pay he was owed from the Army. (Pinal Central, 12/20)



# Growing Arizona's Economy







### ***O'Halleran Votes to Ratify USMCA Agreement***

Congressman Tom O'Halleran joined a bipartisan group of lawmakers to vote to ratify the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, a new North American trade deal that would promote economic growth, strengthen protections for laborers and our environment, promote international trade, enhance compliance monitoring, and create enforcement provisions that would increase accountability for all trading partners. (O'Halleran 12/19)

### ***Legislation Aims To Boost Economic Opportunities After Closure Of Navajo Power Plant***

Arizona Democratic District One Congressmember Tom O'Halleran has introduced legislation that would provide economic development resources to communities affected by the closure of the Navajo Generating Station and the Kayenta Mine. It's known as the "Promise Act" and would establish job and skills training programs for displaced employees. (KNAU, 9/13)

### ***BREAKING: House Passes Bipartisan Legislation to End Bad Robocalls***

Today, Congressman Tom O'Halleran voted to pass the Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrent (TRACED) Act, bipartisan legislation that cracks down on bad robocalls and scam calls. (O'Halleran, 12/5)

### ***O'Halleran Votes for Free and Open Internet***

Today, Congressman Tom O'Halleran voted to pass the Save the Internet Act, legislation that restores net neutrality rules that were repealed by the FCC in 2017. The bill passed the House of Representatives in a bipartisan 232-190 vote. (O'Halleran, 4/10)

### ***O'Halleran Joins McMorris Rodgers to Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Improve Broadband Mapping in Rural Communities***

Today, Congressman Tom O'Halleran (D-AZ) joined Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) to introduce the Broadband Data Improvement Act of 2019 alongside Reps. G.K. Butterfield (D-NC), Ann Kuster (D-NH), David McKinley (R-WV), and Rob Wittman (R-VA). "In the most rural parts of our country, millions of Americans lack access to reliable broadband. This puts communities at a significant disadvantage and prevents them from unlocking the potential of online learning, telehealth, and connectivity in our 21st century economy." (O'Halleran, 6/6)

# Working for Arizona Communities



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### ***O'Halleran's Effort To Protect the Grand Canyon Passes the US House***

On Wednesday, the House of Representatives voted to pass the Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act, legislation introduced by a group of lawmakers including Arizona Democrat Tom O'Halleran. The bill would permanently ban uranium mining in and near the Grand Canyon if it goes through the Senate successfully. In a speech on the floor of the House of Representatives, O'Halleran urged his colleagues to support the legislation, saying, "This common-sense bill protects our Canyon, the people of Northern Arizona, the water supply of the Southwest, and the growth of our state's economy by banning uranium mining in and near the Grand Canyon." (Lake Powell Chronicle, 10/31)

### ***After Leading Congressional Efforts, O'Halleran Announces Secured Funding to Build Flagstaff Veterans Home***

Today, Congressman Tom O'Halleran (AZ-01) announced federal funding to begin construction of the long-awaited proposed veterans home in Flagstaff. "For too long, rural construction projects have been unfairly penalized by an outdated VA funding formula that left too many families without the help they deserve. I have pushed for this funding since coming to Congress, and I will work to ensure the VA is accountable for swiftly moving this crucial project forward." (O'Halleran, 4/17)

### ***Flagstaff, Yuma now among cities able to hold federal court trials***

The president signed a bill making it possible for Flagstaff and Yuma to now hold federal court proceedings into the future. The bill was able to make it through both the House of Representatives and the Senate and was signed by President Donald Trump late last week. The newly established law allows the federal court in Flagstaff to hold full cases in the city, which is centrally located in the northern region. "Take a look at Flagstaff, a growing region, and all the tribal issues that come off the Navajo, Hopi, Havasupai and Hualapai reservation," O'Halleran said. O'Halleran also added that once the area is established, it would likely bring new, higher skilled workers to the Flagstaff and Yuma areas. (Arizona Daily Sun, 7/14)



# Standing up for Arizona Tribes





### ***O'Halleran Leads Group of Arizona, New Mexico Lawmakers in House Resolution Calling on EPA to Act on Uranium Mine Cleanup***

Today, Congressman Tom O'Halleran (AZ-01) joined a group of lawmakers from Arizona and New Mexico to introduce H.Res 737, a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must do more to clean up and remediate toxic, abandoned uranium mine sites on the Navajo Nation. (O'Halleran, 12/3)

### ***O'Halleran introduces bill to protect tribal cops, children***

U.S. Rep. Tom O'Halleran, D-Sedona, introduced legislation this week aimed at protecting children and law enforcement officers impacted by instances of domestic violence. Drafted as the Native Youth and Tribal Officer Protection Act, the congressman's bill would modify existing law to allow tribal communities to arrest and prosecute suspects accused of committing domestic violence involving children or law enforcement officers. (Pinal Central, 2/7)

### ***O'Halleran Leads Bipartisan Group to Reauthorize Special Diabetes Program for Indians***

Today, Congressman Tom O'Halleran (AZ-01) introduced a bipartisan bill to reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) for five years and increase funding from \$150 million to \$200 million. (O'Halleran, 5/10)

### ***House bill could generate more health services for Native American elders***

U.S. representatives from Arizona, New Mexico and Kansas introduced legislation last week to support caregiving services for Native American senior citizens. If passed, the Tribal Elder Care Improvement Act aims to bring more health services to rural tribal communities and fund support services for family caregivers across fiscal years 2020 to 2024. Arizona Democratic Rep. Tom O'Halleran, the sponsor of the bill, said the act could significantly expand the reach of services provided on tribal lands and address high rates of disease. (Arizona Public Media, 12/11)



# Constituent Success Stories







**D.A., Flagstaff:** D.A. had been waiting several months for his Employment Authorization Documentation (EAD). My office was able to contact the National Benefits Center (NBC) to inquire about the status of his work authorization. Within two weeks of our inquiry, we were notified that his work authorization was being processed and that he would be receiving it very soon in the mail. D has since received his work permit and was recently hired by a software company.

**Doug, Camp Verde:** Doug is a disabled Veteran who contacted my office to notify us that he was in dire need of toiletries, mouthwash, cat food and other items that he could not obtain with his EBT (food stamps). With the copy of his DD214 that he provided, my office was able to send his information to a non-profit that provides assistance to veterans. The organization provided him with a gift card to pay for those items. Doug received the gift card less than 24 hours after his initial request to my office.

**Floyd, Winslow:** Floyd called my office struggling to get a referral to take care of an appointment he needed for cancer of the jaw. Due his condition, he was having trouble conveying his issue and getting the assistance he needed. My staff was able to call and get him an appointment immediately.

**Marcus, Casa Grande:** Marcus contacted my office regarding his concerns about his due disability severance pay from the U.S. Army, starting all the way back in 2005 and running through May 2019. He was concerned because he had submitted all required documentation but never received any disbursements or word regarding this entitlement. My staff and I worked to ensure that the Army adjudicated and disbursed Mr. Christiansen's disability severance pay and officially concluded the matter in late November.



Please contact us if we can be of service to you.

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